

46. (Amended) An aqueous composition having a pH between about 5.96 and about 6.04 for enhancing antigenicity of a formaldehyde-fixed, paraffin-embedded, slide-mounted tissue, the composition comprising:

up to about 25% by volume of a mixture by weight about 5.8% ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, about 3.75% nonylphenol ethoxyate, about 1.5% tetrapotassium pyrophosphate and about 88.95% water.; and

up to 10% by weight of citric acid and alkaline citrate salts.

47. (Amended) A method for using the composition of Claim 45 or 46, including the steps of: contacting formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue with the composition and heating to a temperature of at least 80°C for a time sufficient so that the tissue becomes substantially hydrated;

removing the tissue from the composition; and

washing the tissue to remove residual composition.

48. (Amended) A method for enhancing immunochemical staining of a paraffin-embedded, formalin-fixed tissue with a single solution the method comprising;

immersing said tissue for a period of at least about 10 min and a temperature of at least 80°C in an up to about 10 weight percent aqueous surfactant paraffin- removing agent solution having a pH from about 2 to about 8, said solution also containing at least one of a buffer, or salt-tissue activating agent.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the solution has a pH of from 5 to 8.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the surfactant is an aromatic hydrocarbon sulfonate salt.

Sub E3

51. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the surfactant is at least one of cationic, anionic amphoteric and nonionic.

52. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where ⁴the tissue activating agent is a metal salt.

Sub E4

53. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of aluminum chloride, sodium chloride, sodium fluoride, iron chloride, zinc sulfate, and lead thiocyanate.

54. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the tissue activating agent is a buffering agent.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the tissue activating agent is at least one of a citrate salt, tartrate salt, phthalate salt, borate salt, ⁴tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane ⁴ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid or phosphate salt.

56. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the tissue activating agent is ⁴EDTA.

57. (Amended) The method of claim 48 where the tissue activating agent is a buffer.

REMARKS

The specification was subject to objection alleging that a prior amendment directed to Page 8 of the specification could not be entered, purportedly being in the incorrect form with directions with an incorrect placement. Such amendment is no longer required.

Support for new claims 45-57, lies entirely in the 1997 application filed by Applicants. See for example, original claims 69-105, on page 13 last paragraph, a preferred heating of fixed tissue at a temperature of at least 80°C for a period of at least about 20 min. is mentioned. This is also inherent in the nature of the descriptive material. The pH ranges of about 5 to about 8 are specifically mentioned on pages 10 and 11. The amounts of surfactant paraffin removing agent, as well as tissue activating agent are described throughout the original specification including Pages 11-

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